

MEDICAL POLICY



MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	COSMETIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE PROCEDURES
Policy Number	7.01.11
Category	Cosmetic
Effective Date	10/18/01
Revised Date	07/25/02, 12/11/03, 05/27/04, 12/02/04, 12/01/05, 12/07/06, 10/24/07, 10/23/08, 10/28/09, 12/09/10, 12/08/11, 09/04/12, 12/06/12, 12/12/13, 12/11/14, 12/10/15, 02/25/16, 04/27/17, 02/22/18, 02/28/19
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply. • If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. *Cosmetic* procedures are performed to reshape structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem. *Cosmetic* procedures are considered **not medically necessary**.
- II. If a medical condition results from the cosmetic procedure, medically necessary services required to treat the medical condition will be **eligible for coverage**. Common, anticipated, side effects, (e.g., nausea and vomiting which result in a prolonged hospital stay) are considered part of the cosmetic procedure and are **ineligible for coverage**.
- III. *Reconstructive* procedures are performed on structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease.
 - A. *Reconstructive* procedures incidental to or following surgery resulting from accidental injury, infection or other disease of the part of the body involved, and that corrects a *functional deficit** are considered **medically appropriate**. Supportive documentation is required.
 - B. *Reconstructive* procedures related to a congenital disease or anomaly of a child that has resulted in a *functional deficit**, are considered **medically appropriate**. Supportive documentation is required.

**Functional deficit* is defined as:

 - A. Pain or other physical deficit that interferes with activities of daily living; or
 - B. Impaired physical activity.

Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #11.01.03 regarding *Experimental or Investigational Services*.

POLICY GUIDELINES

- I. The Federal Employees Health Benefit Program (FEH/FEP) requires that procedures, devices or laboratory tests approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered investigational and thus these procedures, devices or laboratory tests may be assessed only on the basis of their medical necessity.
- II. The following are examples of procedures that are generally, although not always, considered to be cosmetic.

When procedures are *intended to improve impaired function*, coverage will be considered.

Adequate documentation must be provided upon request and prior to performing the procedure. This may include photographs, copies of consultations, and any other pertinent information.

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Abdominoplasty		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.53, Abdominoplasty and Panniculectomy.
Acne: acne cysts, comedone extraction <i>Refer to Chemical Peel section regarding chemical peel for acne.</i>	10040 11900-11901 17340 (E/I)	<p><i>Intralesional injection</i> of painful acne cysts is considered medically appropriate.</p> <p><i>Surgical drainage</i> of painful acne lesions (acne surgery) is considered medically appropriate.</p> <p><i>Comedone extraction</i> is considered not medically necessary.</p> <p>The use of <i>cryotherapy</i> (carbon dioxide [CO₂] slush, liquid nitrogen) is considered investigational in the treatment of acne due to the lack of peer-reviewed published studies supporting the efficacy of this treatment.</p> <p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #8.01.21, Light and Laser Therapies for Dermatologic Conditions regarding <i>light and laser treatments</i> of acne.</p>
Actinic keratoses	Refer to benign skin lesion codes.	<p>When performed using surgical or medical treatment methods, including but not limited to: <i>cryosurgery, curettage, and excision</i>, is considered medically appropriate.</p> <p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #8.01.21, Light and Laser Therapies for Dermatologic Conditions.</p>
Alopecia		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #2.01.36, Alopecia (Hair Loss).
Benign skin lesions <i>This section does not refer to skin tags. Refer to Skin Tag Removal section.</i>	11300-11313 (code range) 11400-11471 (code range) 17110-17111	<p>When removed due to bleeding, pain, recent changes in color or enlargement, or exposure to frequent irritation, removal of benign skin lesion(s) are considered medically appropriate.</p> <p>When removed to improve appearance, the removal of benign skin lesion(s) is considered not medically necessary.</p>
Blepharoplasty		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.55, Blepharoplasty with or without Levator Muscle Advancement.

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Breast Asymmetry	19318 19324 19325	<p>Reduction mammoplasty /augmentation mammoplasty_for:</p> <p>Treatment of severe asymmetry when functional deficit is documented is considered medically necessary.</p> <p>Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance post-mastectomy or partial mastectomy (e.g., lumpectomy, segmentectomy, quadrantectomy) patients is considered medically appropriate per NY State Law.</p> <p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #10.01.01, Breast Reconstruction Surgery</p> <p>Treatment of other cases of asymmetry is considered not medically necessary.</p> <p>Treatment of other cases of breast augmentation is considered not medically necessary.</p> <p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.39, Reduction Mammoplasty.</p>
Breast implants		<p>Refer to Interqual® Criteria.</p> <p>Procedures for the purpose of gender reassignment/gender affirming reasons should refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.84 Gender Reassignment/Gender Affirming Surgery</p>
Breast reconstruction		<p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #10.01.01, Breast Reconstruction Surgery.</p>
Breast reduction		<p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.39, Reduction Mammoplasty.</p>
Chemical peel	<p>All are NMN:</p> <p>15788-15793 (code range) 17360</p>	<p>Chemical peel of any body area, including acne, acne scars or uneven pigmentation, is considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary.</p>
Comedone extraction		<p>Refer to Acne section.</p>
Congenital chest wall deformity (e.g., pectus excavatum, pectus carinatum)	21740 21742 21743	<p>Surgical correction of a congenital chest wall deformity is considered medically necessary when a documented functional deficit exists. Functional deficits may include, but are not limited to: atypical chest pain, cardiac abnormalities, pulmonary impairment, and for those with pectus excavatum a pectus index/Haller score of 3.25 or greater.</p> <p>Surgical correction of a congenital chest wall deformity for cosmetic reasons is considered not medically necessary.</p>

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Congenital protruding ears	69300	Otoplasty is considered medically appropriate when a functional deficit is documented and when the distance from helical rim to mastoid is greater than or equal to 2.1 cm (normal is 1.5-2.0 cm).
Dermabrasion	15780-15783 (code range)	Dermabrasion is considered medically appropriate following traumatic injury, previous surgery, or burns when a functional deficit exists. Dermabrasion for acne, acne scars, or uneven pigmentation is considered not medically necessary .
Dermatoscopy, dermoscopy	96904	Refer to Optical Diagnostic Evaluation of Skin Lesions section.
Ear Piercing	69090 (NMN)	Ear piercing is considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary due to lack of a functional deficit.
Traumatic laceration of ear and/or body piercing	12001 12011	Repair immediately post-injury of traumatic laceration of ear and/or body piercing is considered medically appropriate . Earlobe repair, or repair of a body site piercing, to close a stretched pierce hole in the absence of a traumatic injury is considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary .
Eczema		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #8.01.21, Light and Laser Therapies for Dermatologic Conditions.
Glabella (frown lines)	15826 (NMN)	Excision or correction of glabella is considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary due to lack of a functional deficit. Refer also to Rhytidectomy section.
Hair removal for Hirsutism/Hypertrichosis		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #2.01.38, Treatment of Hirsutism/Hypertrichosis (Hair Removal).
Hairplasty (hair transplant)	15775 (NMN) 15776 (NMN)	Hairplasty is considered not medically necessary . Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #2.01.36 regarding Alopecia (Hair Loss).
Hemangioma		See Port Wine Stain section.

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Hyperhidrosis surgery: includes endoscopic transthoracic sympathicotomy/sympathectomy (ETS), sympathectomy (radial artery, ulnar artery, superficial palmar arch), video assisted thoracic sympathectomy (VATS), and surgical excision of axillary sweat glands.	32664 64821-64823 97033 (E/I)	<p>Surgical treatment of primary hyperhidrosis is considered medically appropriate only in the small subset of patients with medical complications such as skin breakdown with secondary infections (e.g. folliculitis or cellulitis requiring treatment with systemic antibiotics, or fissuring or cracking) or documented significant biopsychosocial functional impairments (e.g., agoraphobia requiring mental health intervention) with documentation of functional deficit, when all of the following criteria are met:</p> <p>Topical aluminum chloride or other extra-strength antiperspirants are ineffective or result in a severe rash; AND</p> <p>Patient is unresponsive or unable to tolerate pharmacotherapy prescribed for excessive sweating (e.g., anti-cholinergics, beta-blockers, or benzodiazapines); AND</p> <p>Patient has failed to adequately respond to treatment with botulinum toxin A (Botox A).</p> <p>Treatment of hyperhidrosis for <i>cosmetic</i> reasons is not medically necessary.</p> <p>The following treatments for hyperhidrosis are considered investigational because they have not been proven to be effective: acupuncture, axillary liposuction, homeopathy, hypnosis, iontophoresis, massage, psychotherapy, and phytotherapy (use of extracts from natural origin as medicines).</p> <p>While iontophoresis, using devices such as Drionic® or Activadose™ Controller, may provide temporary relief in the treatment of hyperhidrosis, it is administered using equipment not classified as DME. Therefore, equipment and supplies are not covered under most contracts.</p>
Keloid scars	See excision of benign lesion codes.	<p>Treatment of keloid scars (including steroid injections, excision, and adjunctive post-operative radiation therapy) for significant functional deficit such as pain or ulceration is considered medically appropriate.</p> <p>Treatment of keloid scars for nonfunctional reasons is considered not medically necessary.</p>
Labiaplasty (e.g., Alter procedure)	56620, 56625	Labiaplasty is the reduction of the labia majora (outer lips of the vulva) or labia minora (inner lips of the vulva). Labiaplasty is a cosmetic procedure and therefore not medically necessary .
Lipectomy (includes suction lipectomy, liposuction)	15830 15832-15839 15876-15879	<p>When performed for the sole purpose of removal of fat for nonfunctional reasons, lipectomy is considered not medically necessary. However, these techniques may be an integral part of other covered services. These criteria apply to removal of fatty tissue after weight loss, due to any reason, including bariatric surgery.</p> <p><u>Liposuction (e.g., body jet, water assisted - WAL)</u> is considered investigational in the removal of adipose tissue in patients with lipedema as it has not been proven to be effective in peer-reviewed, published literature.</p>

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Mastopexy (breast lift for pendulous breasts)	19316	<p>Mastopexy is considered medically appropriate when a functional deficit is documented.</p> <p>Mastopexy without functional deficit is considered not medically necessary.</p> <p>Mastopexy in post- mastectomy or partial mastectomy (e.g., lumpectomy, segmentectomy, quadrantectomy) patients is considered medically appropriate per NY State Law.</p> <p>Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.39, Reduction Mammoplasty.</p>
Optical diagnostic evaluation of skin lesions (e.g., complexion analysis, Dermatoscopy/dermoscopy [Dermascope™, Episcope™, MoleMax II™, Nevoscope™], epiluminescence microscopy, incidence light microscopy, melanomagram, multi-spectral imaging [MelaFind], skin surface microscopy, total/whole body photography, Visia™)	0400T (NMN) 0401T (NMN) 96904 (NMN) 0470T (NMN) 0471T (NMN)	<p>Optical diagnostic evaluation of skin lesions using direct inspection, photography, digitization of images, or computer-assisted analysis is considered not medically necessary as a technique to evaluate or serially assess pigmented skin lesions or to define peripheral margins of skin lesions suspected of malignancy prior to surgical excision.</p> <p>Dermatoscopy, also known as dermoscopy, describes a family of noninvasive techniques that allow in vivo microscopic examination of skin lesions and is intended to help distinguish between benign and malignant pigmented skin lesions.</p> <p>Multispectral digital skin lesion analysis (MSDSL) uses a handheld scanner to shine visible light on the suspicious lesion. The data acquired by the scanner are analyzed by a data processor; the characteristics of each lesion are evaluated using proprietary computer algorithms.</p> <p>Literature is inconclusive regarding the clinical role of optical diagnostic evaluation of skin lesions in the management of pigmented skin lesions to either select or deselect lesions for excision or to define peripheral margins of malignancy prior to surgical excision. There is a lack of evidence that demonstrates the impact of these technologies on clinical outcomes.</p> <p>Optical coherence tomography (OCT) for microstructural and morphological imaging of skin, image acquisition, interpretation, and report</p>
Panniculectomy		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.53, Abdominoplasty and Panniculectomy.
Port wine stains	17106-17108	<p>Treatment, including laser, of congenital port wine stains and hemangiomas when functional deficit is documented is considered medically appropriate.</p> <p>Treatment of congenital port wine stains and hemangiomas without functional deficit is considered not medically necessary.</p>
Psoriasis		Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #8.01.21, Light and Laser Therapies for Dermatologic Conditions.

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Rhytidectomy (face lift)	All are NMN: 15824- 15829 (Code range)	For correction of a documented functional deficit from facial nerve palsy, is considered medically appropriate . Removal of wrinkles is considered not medically necessary , including use of Botulinum Toxin (Botox) when used for cosmetic reasons. <i>Refer to FLRx for the Pharmacy policy regarding botulinum toxin (Botox).</i> Also refer to Subcutaneous Injection of Filling Material and Glabella sections.
Rosacea, including erythema and telangiectasia	17106- 17108	Treatment of rosacea when there is a documented functional deficit, using procedures such as photoablation, laser treatment, sclerosing injections or ultraviolet light therapy, is considered medically appropriate . Treatment of rosacea for cosmetic reasons, using procedures such as photoablation, laser treatment, sclerosing injections or ultraviolet light therapy, is considered not medically necessary .
Scar revision		Treatment via surgery or intralesional steroid injection is considered medically appropriate when scars cause a functional deficit. Revision of acne scars or revision of scars for cosmetic reasons is considered not medically necessary .
Skin discoloration, including dyschromia		Treatment of skin discoloration when a functional deficit is documented is considered medically appropriate . Treatment of skin discoloration for cosmetic reasons is considered not medically necessary . Also refer to Vitiligo and to Port Wine Stains sections.
Skin removal, redundant or excessive skin	Refer to lipectomy codes.	Removal of redundant or excessive skin, including but not limited to redundant skin on the arms, thighs, back and buttocks, is considered medically appropriate when there is documentation of a significant functional impairment (e.g., persistent cellulitis, abscess, or skin ulceration) that has been refractory (not recurrent, e.g. clears up then recurs) to medical therapy for at least 6 months, including a minimum of two 10-day courses of appropriate systemic antibiotic therapy. This includes removal of redundant skin caused by weight loss, due to any reason, including bariatric surgery. Removal of redundant or excessive skin for cosmetic reasons is considered not medically necessary . Removal of redundant skin caused by weight loss due to any reason, including bariatric surgery, when there is <u>not</u> a functional deficit is considered not medically necessary since redundant skin is an expected outcome after significant weight loss; including a <i>Total Body Lift</i> . Refer to Corporate Medical Policy 7.01.53, Abdominoplasty and Panniculectomy.

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Skin tag removal	11200- 11201	When skin tags are located in areas subject to repeated irritation and bleeding, removal may be considered medically appropriate . Removal of skin tags for nonfunctional reasons is considered not medically necessary .
Spider veins of the face including telangiectasia and stellate angioma		See Rosacea section.
Subcutaneous injection of filling material (e.g., collagen, Hyaluronic acid, Prolaryn™, Radiesse, Restylane, Sculptra)	11950- 11954 (Code range) L8607, Q2026, Q2028	Subcutaneous injection of filling material is considered cosmetic and therefore not medically necessary . Dermal injections with FDA approved products (e.g., poly-L-lactic acid [Sculptra], calcium hydroxylapatite [Radiesse]) for facial lipoatrophy syndrome (FLS) are medically appropriate in HIV infected patients whose FLS has been caused by antiretroviral HIV treatment. Injection with Prolaryn™ is considered medically appropriate as an implant space filling material for soft tissue augmentation in laryngeal procedures for vocal fold medialization and augmentation. If utilized for breast reconstruction, refer to Corporate Medical Policy #10.01.01, Breast Reconstruction Surgery.
Tattoos (decorative or self-induced), including intradermal introduction of insoluble opaque pigments to correct color defects of skin.	11920- 11922	When excision or treatment of tattoos is performed for nonfunctional reasons, it is considered not medically necessary . The use of tattoos in breast reconstructive surgery is addressed in Corporate Medical Policy #10.01.01, Breast Reconstruction Surgery.
Varicose veins (including telangiectasia)		For treatments other than vein stripping and ligation refer to Corporate Medical Policy #7.01.47, Varicosities, Treatment Alternatives to Vein Stripping and Ligation.

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Indication/ Procedure	Code(s)	Coverage Criteria
Vitiligo	96912	Treatment of vitiligo with autologous epidermal cell transplantation for repigmentation is considered investigational . Treatment of vitiligo of non-exposed areas that may be protected from sun exposure, or treatment of vitiligo for cosmetic reasons is considered not medically necessary . Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #8.01.21, Light and Laser Therapies for Dermatologic Conditions, regarding treatment with therapies such as excimer laser, PUVA, UVB, targeted phototherapy (e.g. XTRAC XL™, VTRAC™, BClear™, Excilite™, Excilite u™ and XeCL lamps).
Voice lifting procedures	No code(s)	Voice lifting procedures are performed in order to restore a youthful quality to patients' voices and can be performed with implants to bring vocal cords closer together or injections of fat or collagen to plump cords and restore youthful elasticity. Voice lifting procedures are considered not medically necessary due to lack of a functional deficit.

CODES

- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- **CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.**
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

CPT Codes

Code	Description
Refer to table above.	

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
Refer to table above.	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
Numerous	

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*Key article

KEY WORDS

Acne cysts, actinic keratoses, Activadose™, benign skin lesion, chemical peel, complexion analysis, dermabrasion, dermatoscopy, Drionic®, eczema, face lift, hyperhidrosis, keloid scars, labiaplasty, lipectomy, liposuction, otoplasty, port wine stain, Prolaryn™, repigmentation, rhytidectomy, rosacea, scar revision, skin removal, skin tag removal, subcutaneous injection of filling material tattoo removal, voice lift.

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

The Medicare Benefits Policy Manual addresses Cosmetic Surgery in the chapter on General Exclusions from Coverage (Chapter 16, Section 120 Rev.198, 11-06-14). Please refer to the following website for information contained in the manual: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/Downloads/bp102c16.pdf>.

There are currently National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) that address various services considered to be cosmetic or reconstructive services. Please refer to the following websites for Medicare Members:

NCDs:

Laser Procedures (140.5):

https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=69&ncdver=1&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=New+York+-+Entire+State&Keyword=laser+procedures&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&ncd_id=140.5&ncd_version=1&basket=ncd%25253A140%25252E5%25253A1%25253ALaser+Procedures&bc=gAAAABAAAA&

Treatment of Actinic Keratosis (AKs) (250.4):

https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=129&ncdver=1&NCAId=1&ver=23&NcaName=Actinic+Keratoses&CoverageSelection=Both&ArticleType=All&PolicyType=Final&s=New+York+-+Entire+State&Keyword=actinic+keratoses&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordLookUp=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&KeywordSearchType=And&ncd_id=140.5&ncd_version=1&basket=ncd%25253A140%25252E5%25253A1%25253ALaser+Procedures&bc=gAAAABAAIAAA&

LCDs:

Debridement Services:

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<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/license/cpt-license.aspx?from=~/overview-and-quick-search.aspx&npage=/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx&LCDId=33614&ver=11&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=SAD%7cEd&PolicyType=Both&s=41&Keyword=debridement&KeywordLookup=Title&KeywordSearchType=Exact&kq=true&bc=IAAAACAAAA&>

Removal of Benign Skin Lesions:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=54602&ver=8&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=SAD%7cEd&PolicyType=Both&s=41&Keyword=removal+benign+skin+lesions&KeywordLookup=Title&KeywordSearchType=And&kq=true&bc=IAAAACAAAA&>

There is a National Coverage Decision Memo for **Dermal Injections for the Treatment of Facial Lipodystrophy Syndrome** (FLS)(CAG-00412N). Please refer to the following website for Medicare members:

[http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=234&NcaName=Dermal+injections+for+the+treatment+of+facial+lipodystrophy+syndrome+\(FLS\)&NCDId=338&ncdver=1&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=Ed%7cKey%7cSAD%7cFAQ&PolicyType=Final&s=5%7c6%7c66%7c67%7c44&Keyword=Dermal+Injections+for+the+Treatment+of+Facial+Lipodystrophy+Syndrome&KeywordLookup=Doc&KeywordSearchType=Exact&kq=true&IsPopup=y&bc=AAAAAAAAAAAA%3D%3D&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=234&NcaName=Dermal+injections+for+the+treatment+of+facial+lipodystrophy+syndrome+(FLS)&NCDId=338&ncdver=1&SearchType=Advanced&CoverageSelection=Both&NCSelection=NCA%7cCAL%7cNCD%7cMEDCAC%7cTA%7cMCD&ArticleType=Ed%7cKey%7cSAD%7cFAQ&PolicyType=Final&s=5%7c6%7c66%7c67%7c44&Keyword=Dermal+Injections+for+the+Treatment+of+Facial+Lipodystrophy+Syndrome&KeywordLookup=Doc&KeywordSearchType=Exact&kq=true&IsPopup=y&bc=AAAAAAAAAAAA%3D%3D&)